

July 30, 2010

Greg and Susan Reaume  
Seven Oaks Ranch  
5373 Parkhill Road  
Santa Margarita, CA 93453

Re: Proposed Oster Quarry

Gentlemen:

My wife and I are retired residents of Santa Margarita and have owned Seven Oaks Ranch at 5373 Parkhill Road for the past twenty years. We attended the Community Meeting where issues of the EIR were discussed concerning the proposed quarry on highway 58 at the Salinas River.

Quite frankly, we were appalled that the Planning Commission even recommended that an EIR be conducted. Every impact issue discussed at the meeting was met with clear and concise data supporting a huge negative impact upon the environment, the community and the fiscal burden to the people.

Mr. Ken Johnston is quite correct concerning the mineral rich road base, we know as golden DG, found in abundance east of the Salinas River in the Santa Margarita area. I have had discussions with several engineering contractors from both Northern and Southern California concerning the lucrative probabilities of mining the desirable material. Unlike the Oster property, our ranch, 350 acres, is zoned agricultural and the terrain is far more desirable, from an economic standpoint, to mine profitably. I have flatly rejected the proposals as inconsistent with the environment and what my wife and I perceived was the planned growth for the community.

I am, however, not so naive as to reject exploiting these materials should you, the planning commission and the board of supervisors, choose to open the floodgates and convert this area into an industrial rock pile. The resulting domino effect and impact to the community would be devastating. The ultimate continual damage and destruction to the area would render an undesirable residential and ranching community, which could then appropriately be labeled "The Dirt and Dust Bowl" of Central California.

My wife and I were also quite baffled by the lack of attention to the many safety issues which would arise, in the day to day business of such an operation, especially in the more heavily populated area of the town proper, "Santa Margarita". We are surprised that the public utility commission has not flat out vetoed this effort particularly because of high

impact on the rail corridor and the adjacent grammar school traffic where dense child activities are continually present.

Quite frankly, in light of our current economic political scenario, it is a little disturbing that hard earned and strictly scrutinized tax payer money is being squandered to subsidize the likes of highly aggressive ventures of this nature. This type of venture ultimately benefits only a few to the detriment of the community, in its entirety, and the environment it supports. It's apparently clear that no additional competition is needed in this area of business so there appears to be no sound basis to support the request.

Any support of this highly capitalistic venture, for the benefit of a few economically aggressive individuals, to the huge detriment of this community and its beautiful, surrounding environment would be outright irresponsible. I trust our planning commission has the character, integrity, and the skills to act in a prudent fashion to protect this community against this inappropriate and wayward growth which clearly is inconsistent with good sound thinking and planning. My wife and I urge you to diffuse this quarry effort and promote beautification programs which we all can be proud to stand behind. I hope your recommendations to our board of supervisors reflect the thoughtful consideration of the community concerns and ideals as well as competent and logical planning capable of withstanding the test of time where you are proud to claim credit for your past efforts and accomplishments.

As a past builder and attorney in Southern California, primarily the Los Angeles basin for over thirty years, I have witnessed numerous communities fall victim to unscrupulous, misguided planners and supervisors who virtually ruined the quality of life for their constituents. A trip down Interstate 5 past the Los Angeles County line should provide appropriate evidence of poor planning.

Again, my wife and I urge you to diffuse this effort.

Thank you for your anticipated prudent and competent handling of this sensitive community issue.

Sincerely,

Greg and Susan Reaume  
Seven Oaks Ranch